



CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON SEC. OF STATE RACE.

Editor's note: Of the 5 incumbents on the June '98 ballot seeking reelection, only Calif. Secretary of State Bill Jones(R) has polling numbers which suggest he may be in for a tough fight from Demo rival Michela Alioto. Here's our update & analysis...

...On Apr. 9th Jones officially kicked off his reelection bid with news conferences in Sacto and his hometown of Fresno. And in both places he emphasized 3 key campaign themes: 1) reform of campaigns & elections; 2) continue to crack down on election law violators (Jones is promoting AB 2323 to require voters to present ID when voting); and 3) keep Calif. technologically and economically competitive. Jones is a co-sponsor of a Mar. 7, 2000 Pacific Presidential Primary, which is another element in his reelection campaign...

...If Jones has a problem, it has to do with his zero-tolerance policy for abuse of election laws. Here Jones has what we call Political Alzheimer's Disease: *he can't remember misdeeds and abuses by GOPers*. And there have been some, such as in the 67th AD recall in 1995...

...But this problem doesn't really account for his tight race with Alioto. Not enough voters are aware of the 67th AD brouhaha. The most recent Field Poll (Mar. 5-15, 383 likely voters) puts Jones' name ID at **28%** vs. **26%** for Alioto. Alioto is a well known political name, especially in Northern Calif. In the 1-on-1 match with Alioto, Jones is ahead: **34%** vs. **23%**, with **4%** for others and **39%** undecided. These figures come close to Jones' own internal polling. *However...*

...In an open primary, the *L.A. Times* new poll found Alioto leading Jones among likely voters. In its new Apr. 4 - 9 poll: Alioto **35%** vs. **33%** for Jones, with

1% for someone else and **31%** undecided. These numbers are within the margin of error, meaning this race is dead even. But the Jones campaign sees a flaw in the way the *L.A. Times* conducted its survey. The *LAT* failed to give ballot titles. Polls conducted by campaign firms almost always list ballot titles or indicate incumbency, which as one source told **Calpeek**, is very important. FYI: the *L.A. Times* didn't list ballot titles in any of the down-ballot races which it recently surveyed. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: U.S. SEN. BOXER LEADING ALL GOP RIVALS IN NEW L.A. TIMES POLL. RIGGS DROPS OUT

Editor's note: U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D), who was once thought to be very, very vulnerable in her 1998 reelection bid, is now looking much stronger. And one of the three GOP rivals, U.S. Rep. Frank Riggs, has dropped out of the race. Here's our update & analysis with new *L.A. Times* survey info...

...**Riggs first**. The congressman from Windsor had 3 things going for him: 1) his ballot title; 2) the endorsement of 4 Calif. House colleagues; and 3) a team of well known and respected consultants. But he couldn't raise any substantial money and this was his undoing, just as it was the undoing of San Diego Mayor Susan Golding a few months ago, when she dropped out...

...The new *L.A. Times* poll (Apr. 4 - 9, 566 likely voters) shows that in the open primary, Boxer leads with **42%**, followed by the three GOPers, businessman Darrell Issa with **20%**, CA Treasurer Matt Fong with **12%** and Riggs with **7%**. **19%** don't know. Boxer is holding her Demo base and is scoring well with independent voters. On the GOP side, Issa continues to lead Fong, but Fong is the proverbial optimist: he sees the glass as *half full* in-stead of half empty. Fong's spin: Issa has spent millions on tv & radio and is still un-

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known by **63%** of registered voters. Fong with no tv, is unknown by **60%**...

...In the 1-on-1 matches, Boxer defeats Fong by a **52% vs. 36%** margin. Against Issa, Boxer wins by a **54% vs. 34%** margin...

...**Campaign news.** Issa has been endorsed by Prop. 209 chair/UC Regent Ward Connerly. Issa also has been attacking Fong --- asking about evidence of Fong's experience in business. "What business?" asks Issa cmp. manager Scott Taylor...

...On Apr. 1st., Sen. Boxer introduced legislation that promotes Fair Care to provide equal access to health care by equalizing tax treatment of health care benefits. GOP House members are drafting similar legislation. Has Boxer hit on an good idea? Perhaps. FYI: the man who first proposed Fair Care is J. Patrick Rooney, the same guy who is backing YES on 226. Very interesting. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S RACE.

Editor's note: Here is our update of the new L.A. Times poll and what it means in the short term...

...The L.A. Times new survey has something good for all three Demos --- and bad news for AG Dan Lungren(R). In the open primary, among likely voters Lungren has **28%**, U.S. Rep. Jane Harman has **24%**, businessman Al Checchi has **22%** and Lt. Gov. Gray Davis has **13%**. So our sources don't expect Checchi to ease up on the negative ads against Harman as long as she holds this lead among the likely voters. Checchi is just behind Lungren among all registered voters...

...Now here's what's of interest. In the 1-on-1 matches, all three Demos defeat Lungren: Checchi **47%** vs. Lungren **37%**; Harman **44%** vs. Lungren **39%**; and Davis **48%** vs. Lungren **36%**. Davis does best against Lungren --- and some insiders are warning the news media **not** to count Davis out. And it is possible that one of the Demos might finish in front of Lungren and that would be a major disaster for Lungren, given that he faces no serious GOP opposition on June 2nd...

...Lungren's biggest problem: he is only drawing **51%** among Republican voters! That's very low. Checchi is

pulling **16%** of the GOP vote, while Harman gets **9%** and Davis pulls in **6%**...

...Sources say Lungren has to do something to *energize* his Republican base and to stop Checchi & Harman from pulling more GOP votes. Perhaps this is the reason why Lungren has come out strongly for ACA 38 to restore *parental consent* in the case of abortions for pregnant teenagers. While this does remind his conservative GOP base that he is *pro-life*, abortion is about the last thing Lungren wants to discuss in the fall. All three Demos are *pro-choice*, but Checchi also favors parental consent, which cuts across party lines...

...In addition, supporting parental consent at this time might anger Gov. Pete Wilson(R) and his supporters who are battling to keep CA Supreme Court Chief Justice Ron George and Assoc. Justice Ming Chin on the bench. Both justices face voters in November and both voted to overturn the parental consent law. There is an organized effort to defeat both these justices...

...Lungren claims to be neutral with regard to George & Chin, but given his views on abortion, Demo sources suspect that he would not shed any tears if both were defeated in November...

...FYI: Davis recently won the endorsement of the Calif. Federation of Labor(AFL-CIO). And on Apr. 15 Checchi won backing from the CA State Firefighters Assn. He also has support from a number of labor leaders. And although Harman has been backed by labor in the past, for now she's batting zero...

CAMPAIGN '98: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: There are more than 50 initiatives still out in the field, although most ballot measures sponsors don't have the resources to collect the required signatures. As mentioned last week, the ban on animal traps will be on the Nov. 3rd ballot and sources tell Calpeek that the initiative to ban the slaughter of horses will turn in more than 750,000 signatures after our deadline. It should qualify for Nov. 3rd's ballot...

...And here are the numbers from the new L.A. Times Poll, sample 566 likely voters, Apr. 4 - 9...

◆ **Prop. 223** - School Spending Limits on Admin. Initiative or 95/5. Among likely voters: **55%** favor,

26% against; don't know 19%...

◆ **Prop. 226** - CRI or Paycheck Protection Init.

to require written permission from union members before dues can be used in political campaigns. Among likely voters: 66% favor; 26% against; 8% don't know. FYI: According to a memo from the YES on 226 campaign, the American Federation of Teachers has begun a statewide radio campaign against 226. One other note: in Calpeek's Election Guide, we listed Joe Shumate & Assoc. as being the media consultant for YES on 226. Incorrect. According to a YES on 226 source, the campaign has not hired any consultant to do the tv campaign. PS: The Field Poll showed the YES on 226 ahead by a 60% vs. 29% margin...

◆ **Prop. 227** - This is the initiative to ban the current system of bilingual education in Calif. Among likely voters: 63% favor; 23% against; 14% don't know. FYI: L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan has announced his support for 226. So has U.S. Rep. Buck McKeon(R-Santa Clarita). The NO side has almost disappeared. No sign of anything. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON HOT ASSEMBLY RACES.

Editor's note: Here is Part I of Calpeek's expanded coverage of the hot State Assembly primary races...

☒ **3rd AD** - A rip-roaring shoot-out is taking place in this solid GOP district between Dr. Sam Aanestad and David Reade to replace *termed out* Bernie Richter. Some see the race as a toss up, but others think that Bernie's son-in-law and COS, Reade, has an edge because as one source told Calpeek, "In the 3rd AD Bernie walks on water and his polling numbers are terrific." What's also of interest is that sources say this 3rd AD race is a test for a Richter vs. Assemblyman Ricco Oller(4th AD) shoot-out over Tim Leslie's 1st SD seat in 2000. Oller is backing Aanestad...

☒ **37th AD** - This is another shoot-out which may have an impact on the 2000 race for Cathy Wright's 19th SD seat. Tony Strickland was the early favorite to replace *termed out* Assemblyman Nao Takasugi. But in the middle of '97, defeated 24th CD GOP candidate Rich Sybert jumped in --- and with his *deep pockets*, is now a slight favorite unless Strickland can raise the bucks. Sources say Strickland has a solid field operation and that may help to offset Sybert's deep pockets.

Assemblyman Tom McClintock is backing Strickland while Takasugi is for Sybert...

☒ **49th AD** - One of the big Demo shoot-outs is in this East L.A. County seat now held by *termed out* Diane Martinez. This is Demo turf so GOPers need not apply. There are 5 Demos: L.A. Community College trustee/L.A. Charter Reform Commissioner Gloria Romero; Monterey Park Councilmember Judy Chu; Rosemead Councilman Bob Bruesch; Alhambra Mayor Barbara Messina; & Susan Martinez-Baker, sister of Diane. Our sources see Romero, who has backing from Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa, L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan and labor, as the frontrunner, with Martinez-Baker and Chu in the 2nd tier and Messina & Bruesch in the 3rd tier. Chu has a shot to overtake Romero if she gets cross-over votes...

☒ **67th AD** - Assemblyman Scott Baugh(R-Huntington Beach) is probably a safe bet for reelection because former Assemblywoman Doris Allen, O.C. Board of Education member Felix Rocha Jr., Fountain Valley Councilman Chuck Conlosh, businesswoman Haydee Tillotson and Seal Beach Mayor Marilyn Ryan will split the anti-Baugh vote. All of Baugh's GOP rivals have name ID. No need to rehash the **1995 recall** election of Allen and Baugh's win. But Baugh has been indicted on campaign reporting charges (he denies any wrongdoing) and is due to stand trial **after** the primary. Had the news media discovered a solid link between Baugh and decoy Demo candidate Laurie Campbell back in '95, it's possible that Tillotson might have won that recall election. But that didn't happen. Sources expect this primary will turn into WWII. More Assembly coverage next week...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON CITY & COUNTY RACES.

Editor's note: This week Calpeek begins expanded coverage of County Supervisorial races and other local contests...

☒ **Long Beach** - As expected, Beverly O'Neill was reelected April 14th to a 2nd term as mayor of L.A. Co.'s 2nd largest city. She got 78.9% of the vote...

☒ **L.A. County** - Sup. Gloria Molina has no opponent, while popular L.A. Co. Assessor Kenneth Hahn should win reelection without any difficulty. So most insiders are watching 1st term Sup. Zev Yaroslavsky,

with his \$1 million-plus warchest. Zev has 3 unknown challengers (C.J. McDonald, Shane McCloud and Casey Peters), but he's decided to take on the county's powerful Metropolitan Transit Authority by launching an initiative which would ban the use of local sales tax money after the L.A.-to-North Hollywood subway is complete. Progressive Campaigns is on the streets now, collecting 106,000 names. Of course this ban has got the folks from East L.A. very upset and you can bet your first born that all the contractors (who have made millions and millions) are NOT happy campers. So far there's been no evidence that MTA supporters will attempt to go after Yaroslavsky, but that's always a possibility. Rick Taylor is Yaroslavsky's campaign consultant...

☒ **Santa Clara Co.** - Veteran Sup. Jim Beall has no opponent, while new Sup. Donald Gage faces only one challenger: Ted Scarlett...

☒ **San Diego Co.** - Sup. Ron Roberts in Dist. #4 is unopposed, but incumbent Bill Horn in Dist. #5 has drawn two rivals: Escondido Councilman Jerry Harmon and businesswoman Patsy Fritz. Horn should be the favorite, but some recent polls shows him in the low 30% range, both for reelect and when matched against Harmon and Fritz. Sources say that the bonus payments to top county executives is the source of Horn's trouble. It's a big negative with voters. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.
Editor's note: Here's another update on the hot Calif. primary races for the U.S. House...

...Demo House Leader Richard Gephardt keeps telling insiders that Demos only need to recapture **11 seats** from the GOP to retake control of the U.S. House. Gephardt recently told a Calif. Demo insider that he sees **8** of those pick-ups coming from the West...

☒ **36th CD** - In this contest to replace Jane Harman(D-Torrance), all eyes are on the GOP primary between L.A. Councilman Rudy Svorinich Jr., Assemblyman Steve Kuykendall, Susan Brooks and two other Republicans, Robert Klein and Bob Pegram. Most **Calpeek** sources see Svorinich, Brooks and Kuykendall in the top tier. All 3 are pro-choice GOPers, although recently Brooks mailed a letter to potential contributors, trying to distort Svorinich's stand (saying

he was for abortion on demand & favored partial birth, when that is not the case). Svorinich's internal poll points to a win by Demo Janice Hahn IF Brooks is the nominee for a **3rd** time. FYI: L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan has endorsed Rudy...

☒ **22nd CD** - New U.S. Rep. Lois Capps(D-Santa Barbara) won't let GOP Assemblyman Tom Bordonaro off the hook. Her campaign filed a complaint April 1st with the FEC against Bordonaro for violating election law with a smear campaign using misleading phone calls in the last days of the 22nd CD special election. One of the anti-Capps phone messages was recorded on an answering device --- the call from from a phony outfit called *Central Coast Democrats for Honest Representation*. Where do they get these names!!!

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